

CONNECTICUT EMS VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE, A COMMITTEE OF THE CT EMS
ADVISORY BOARD

Approved Minutes for March 12, 2009 at Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps. 41 Maple Street, Ellington, CT.

Attendance: R. Corrigan, S. Kosciusko, J. Paretzky, A. Stone, P. Heavin, S. Mudge

Guests: K. Brown, (CT OEMS) , P. Hany, B. Morrison, M. Morrison, J. Brown, T. Shook, J. Simmons, J. Gauthier, P. Loftus, J. Kosciu, B. Feldman, K. Neubecker

6:30- 7PM introduction to Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps by its Chief Peter Hany. Ellington EMS was form in 1962 and runs about 900 calls per year. The service has both volunteers and paid staff. It is at the EMT-B level, with both aspirin and glucometers used. Funding comes from billing for service and the Town provides for ambulances. The service has a pension plan for its members.

Meeting called to order at 7PM by Chair Jay B. Paretzky

The minutes for the Volunteer Meeting on January 8, 2009 at the State Police Academy in Meriden approved as distributed.

Chair- review the proposed budget cuts to DPH/OEMS/ Regional Councils:

The proposed budget from DPH calls for the elimination of the five Regional Councils and to use the OEMS staff to provide the functions now done by the Councils.

Discussion followed. Vote taken on supporting the current Regional Councils- motion failed

Motion to support the concept of four or five Regional Councils: motion passed

EMS-C has asked for suggestions for training. One suggestion made was to allow for site visits at pediatric hospitals for EMT's. Kevin indicated that Sean Anderson should be contacted to set this up. EMS-C has obtained a grant for \$130,000.

The Chair reviewed the activities of the Advisory Board and gave out its minutes for February and March

Changes in the KED device was discussed and Kevin indicated that the changes the Chair had, were not the most current ones. Kevin will send out the most recent changes to the Chair so he can distribute it to the committee.

Review of proposed legislation:

SB 414, AN ACT REDUCING THE IMPOSITION OF STATE MANDATES ON VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES AND PERSONNNEL. This bill was submitted by Sen. Roraback as requested by the Northwest COG. The bill calls for changes in chapter 368d of the general statutes to be amended to reduce the number of state mandates imposed on volunteer

ambulance services and personnel.

Discussion followed with a review of the function of the Volunteer Committee, the Legislative Committee and the CT EMS Advisory Board. The Board will not support any bill that has not been presented to the Board prior to being submitted to Legislators. The Chair asked Skip Kosciusko to review his testimony before the Public Health Committee and his letter supporting this bill.

The highlights in support of changes in mandates include the following:

1. Allow volunteers that have held an EMT certification in the past but had it expire to take a refresher class and test instead of the entire class and the National Registry exam.
2. Allow a CT EMT- I to function at that level of certification, not to the level of the service they work or volunteer at.
3. Allow for a legal crew to be changed to allow for an EMT and a driver, not an EMT and an MRT as the minimum staffing requirement.
4. Allow personnel that have completed the EMT-B training to sit for both the National Registry EMT-B and the MRT exam, so if they fail the EMT –B part they can function at the MRT level until they pass the EMT-B exam.

The Chair reviewed the items and Ken Brown addressed some of the issues

The Rules and Regulations Committee and the Education and Training Committee have been working on changing the certifications and re-certification requirements and Kevin has been reviewing the testing process and the MRT/EMT-B issue. Skip expressed that it takes years for us to change things where the Commissioner of DPH can effect change overnight.

The Chair will bring back the issues discussed and see if they will back all or any of them.

The Chair pointed out that the Legislative Committee, A Committee of the CT EMS Advisory Board, was established to provide a vehicle to assure a unified voice in the legislative arena. Legislation is best changed with support from all the parties; the Advisory Board is the central body to bring together everyone to accomplish improvements in EMS. Each member of the Volunteer Committee is always free to speak to legislators, but for EMS issues it would be better to use the system in place to join together as a group to be successful. The Advisory Board will not support any proposed legislation that has not been presented to the Board for its review before it is given to a legislator.

Bob Corrigan spoke about a letter he wrote to Senator Roberta Willis about EMS Volunteers and the impact we have on patient care and the cost savings for Towns and the citizens of the State.

Bob has supported an independent study of OEMS and EMS in the State, to look at Recruitment , retention and recognition of EMS personnel.

The Chair discussed the need for an independent study of EMS and OEMS, and that State Representative Roberta Willis and Senator Andrew Roraback have backed our request. They

suggest that Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee look at the EMS system again. They did a review of OEMS in 1997 and 1999. The Legislators want us to fine tune the specifics of the need for the study and what we want studied.

Discussion followed with the following suggestions made:

- 1) A review of current staffing for EMS - where are we short personnel?
- 2) A review on how we can increase personnel in EMS in the State?
- 3) How can we retain current personnel?
- 4) How can we expedite the training and testing process?

The Chair will give the Advisory Board our suggestions to be forwarded to the Legislators.

The Chair reviewed some pending bills that effect EMS here in CT. One bill is 6289 that calls for funds for firefighter training. This bill has been presented several times, it was bonded but the funds never released per Lenny Guerica from OEMS.

Discussion followed and it was decided to submit a similar bill that calls for the following:
An Act Appropriating funds for EMS support.

- 1) To establish four Regional EMS councils to provide local support for EMS.
- 2) To establish funding of \$150,000 for each of the Four Regional Councils per year.
- 3) To establish funding of \$100,000 for a Director of CORC, and staffing, staffing will also provide clerical support for the Advisory Board.
- 4) To establish funding of \$150,000 for EMS recruitment, training and testing.
- 5) To establish funding of \$150,000 to create a training center in each of the four EMS regions.
- 6) One contract will be prepared with DPH and CORC. All funding will be processed though CORC to the Regional Councils. CORC will report to the CT EMS Advisory Board and OEMS.

Changes in EMS in Connecticut will start with the individual provider, to the Service Provider, to the Region Council and the Regional Medical Advisory Committees, to CORC then to the Advisory Board and its' committees for review, then to OEMS and DPH.

This bill could be attached to one of the raised bills 6055 or 6389 calling for promotion of regionalization.

Discussion followed with motion approved

CT OEMS reports for February and March, 2009 distributed and reviewed by Kevin Brown.

Kevin reminded the membership of the State EMS Conference on March 18-21 and how important it is for us to support the Conference by showing strong attendance.

EMS Leadership flyer given out for the program on April 3 and 4.

The Forward Movement of Patients, with the Burn Plan and Mobilization Plan has been approved by the Commissioner of Health. The Chair indicated that two items the Volunteer Committee wanted in the plans was not included and he wrote to Jon Best at OEMS about them. They are:

- 1) That Volunteer Services not be pressed into service unless they can provide services in their communities
- 2) That if we are put outside our region that we be released as soon as possible to return to our PSA.

The next meeting is May 14 location to be announced 6:30- 7 PM Light refreshments 7-9 PM meeting

2009 meeting schedule locations to be announced: June 11, September 10 and November 12

Adjourned 2130

Philip Heavin, Secretary

Jay B. Paretzky Chair CT EMS Volunteer Committee, a Committee of the CT EMS Advisory Board 203 247-9883